



# WHENUAPAI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 17

14 Airport Road, Whenuapai Phone: 09 416 8779 Email: [office@whenuapai.school.nz](mailto:office@whenuapai.school.nz)

## A WORD FROM OUR PRINCIPAL...

Dear Parents and Caregivers

It is hard to believe that this is the final newsletter for the year. I would like to acknowledge our parent community, including our Grandparents, for the very many ways you have supported the school throughout the year. Without your support we cannot offer the things we would like to beyond the school gate. I would also like to acknowledge and thank you for your attendance at our celebrations over the past weeks.

As we end the school year our new Minister of Education has been signalling change is a foot in 2018. What those changes will look like will be unpacked in early 2018.

We are very fortunate that our school is fully staffed for the start of the school year. A number of our new teachers are moving to Auckland from a variety of places in New Zealand – Geraldine, Blenheim, Whangarei and Bay of Plenty. We also have 3 teachers joining us who already live in Auckland.

To our teachers leaving: we wish them all well as they continue to pursue other educational opportunities. I would also like to acknowledge how each of them, individually has enriched the school.

Our children had a very exciting day on Tuesday. Not only did we celebrate Whenuapai School's 60<sup>th</sup> year, our children met their new teachers. We were very appreciative that some of our new teachers were able to visit and meet their children.



I have attached an article on 'Summer Maths Loss' which may be of interest to you.

If you are travelling over the summer break, safe travels and on behalf of the Whenuapai team, I wish you all well for the festive season.

Merry Christmas and kind regards,

Raewyn Matthys-Morris  
Principal

### REMINDER

Friday

15<sup>th</sup> of December

Last day of term

School finishes at:

**12.30pm**

### 2018 DATES

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb

Introduction  
Interviews

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb

First day Term 1



MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!

## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS



It's that time of year again!

Whenuapai School has two Christmas boxes in reception, one for non-perishable food items and the other for wrapped and labelled Christmas gifts. Please feel free to drop in any donations you have. We will present these to Vision West Community Banks on the last day of school.

## PIANO/KEYBOARD LESSONS

There are vacancies for piano/keyboard lessons at school for the first term 2018. Please contact Diane Hunn directly on 021 653386 or 832 6241 for further information.

## LOST PROPERTY

**Please check lost property.**

Any unclaimed items will be cleared out and donated before the beginning of 2018.

Lost property can be located next to the main office block until Friday.

## BOT MEETINGS

The first two Board meetings for 2018 have been set for:

**Monday 12th February**

**Monday 26th February**

## BOT MEMBERS

Jelena Nasmith – Chair  
 Raewyn Matthys-Morris  
 Maureen Mason  
 Kylie Haskins  
 Jane McLean  
 Kirsten Benton  
 Kim Weston  
 Paula Pusich  
 Mike Leonard

## PTA NEWS

A big thanks to our wonderful school community for supporting the PTA throughout the year. We have had an amazing year. Details of how much we have raised and what has been purchased will be sent out in a separate PTA newsletter. A special thanks to all the parent helpers throughout the year. Without you we couldn't do what we do. Thanks to the teachers and support staff for all their help and support throughout the year.

The winners of the Car boot raffle hampers were drawn by Raewyn Matthys-Morris under the watchful eye of Carla Veldman. The winners were:

- Sylvan Morris
- Tracy Collins
- Isla Brain
- Anka Pusich

Guess the lollies winners:

There was 139 lollies in the big jar and was won by Pam Hunter who guessed the correct amount. The M&M jar had 1237 lollies and Lewis guessed the closest with 1204.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the PTA team!



### KEY CONTACTS

Principal – Raewyn Matthys-Morris	<a href="mailto:rmatthys-morris@whenuapai.school.nz">rmatthys-morris@whenuapai.school.nz</a>
Deputy Principal – Carla Veldman	<a href="mailto:cveldman@whenuapai.school.nz">cveldman@whenuapai.school.nz</a>
SENCO - Sharron Buer	<a href="mailto:sharronb@whenuapai.school.nz">sharronb@whenuapai.school.nz</a>
Board of Trustees	<a href="mailto:bot@whenuapai.school.nz">bot@whenuapai.school.nz</a>
PTA	<a href="mailto:pta.whenuapai@gmail.com">pta.whenuapai@gmail.com</a>
SKIDS After School Care	<a href="http://whenuapai@skids.co.nz">whenuapai@skids.co.nz</a>
<b>Team Leaders</b>	
Year 0-2 – Rachel Capizzi	<a href="mailto:rachelc@whenuapai.school.nz">rachelc@whenuapai.school.nz</a>
Year 3-4 – Carla Veldman	<a href="mailto:cveldman@whenuapai.school.nz">cveldman@whenuapai.school.nz</a>
Year 4-5 – Maureen Mason	<a href="mailto:maureenm@whenuapai.school.nz">maureenm@whenuapai.school.nz</a>
Year 7-8 – Karl Ganda	<a href="mailto:karlg@whenuapai.school.nz">karlg@whenuapai.school.nz</a>

### ONLINE PAYMENTS

Any queries please contact Mr Tony Hitchcock at email: [thitchcock@whenuapai.school.nz](mailto:thitchcock@whenuapai.school.nz)

**Bank Account details:** 12 3085 0494188 00

**Reference:** Students Name

**Details:** The activity the payment is for

If you pay online for more than one activity or pay for more than one student and various activities, please email Tony detailing what payments are for.

For our Policies and Procedures please visit SchoolDocs at: [www.schooldocs.co.nz/](http://www.schooldocs.co.nz/) User- whenuapai Password- airport

# SPORT

## Norwest Year 5 & 6 Touch Competition

Whenuapai School were represented at the Year 5 & 6 touch tournament held at Moire Park on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Two boys' teams and a girl's team participated on what was ideal conditions with the sun shining all day.



The Whenuapai Boys A team had some creditable performances and lost a close game in pool play to the eventual tournament winners Marina View. This means they played off for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place of which they won this game to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> overall.

The Whenuapai Boys B team participated and for some of the boys this was their first competitive tournament. They can be proud of their performances and they improved with every game across the day.

The girl's team played in a round robin format and played some very strong sides. They all supported each other and contributed to their teams overall performance with some pleasing results.

The school would like to thank all the players and also the large contingent of parents that assisted with transport, coaching, management and supervision of the students. We thank you all for what was a great day of sport!

## Sports Prize Giving

This year we have had amazing achievements across all of our school sports. It has been wonderful seeing so many of our Whenuapai children getting involved and giving new sports a try.

Last week we celebrated with an end of year sports prize giving where we acknowledged the successes of all of our talented athletes. A massive congratulations to all of those who received awards.

We also would like to say a massive thank you to our hard working coaches, managers and parents who have shown great support throughout the season, it would not be possible without all of you.

We look forward to starting up next year's sports and getting everyone involved again.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas!"



## **WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR A STAGE REBUILD!**

We are in desperate need of a new outdoor stage, which is looking a little bit worse for wear! If there is any person or company who would be interested in sponsoring a rebuild, please contact Miss Maureen Mason at: [maureem@whenuapai.school.nz](mailto:maureem@whenuapai.school.nz) - Thank You!



## **SCHOOL CHOIR**

The Whenuapai School Choir did a wonderful job performing at RNZAF Base Auckland's Carols by Candlelight function.

The children should be very proud of their performance 🎵





## **Excerpt from my Speech for Year 7/8 Prize-giving and Year 8 Graduation Thursday 7 December 2017**

Today's ceremony is an opportunity for the Whenuapai School Learning Community to acknowledge our Year 7 and 8 students. It is also an opportunity to honour our Year 8 students who have completed their eight years of primary schooling and are beginning their next phase of learning.

It is nearing the end of the school year, and some of you will be leaving our school, the place that has been your home away from home. Wherever you are going we wish you well as you embark on the next stage of your educational journey.

There is no place like home. Home is not only where we find security, familiarity, warmth and love; it is also where we find our sense of purpose and meaning. It is where we turn to in uncertain times in order to ground ourselves and to seek support and advice which we can trust. Home provides us with a firm platform from which we can leap into the unknown and it is a place we always know we come back to, a place where we are known for who we are, not what we have done.

***Home is a place you grow up wanting to leave, and grow old wanting to get back to.***

Year 8 students Whenuapai School has been your second home, your home away from home. Being part of a family has its challenges but each of you have enhanced your school home. You have all made a significant difference. Parents you have worked with us, walked with us and along the way given us great encouragement and confidence to support your children to become the fine young people they are today. Year 8's now it is time for you to leave your school home. Year 7 students, 2018 is your opportunity to shape your legacy. We look forward to walking along side you.

Next year is a great change for everyone. Big changes can be exciting and sometimes a little sad. Life does not stand still. We have to keep moving on. We grow older and our view of the world shifts and grows. For most of you your total school journey is only 12 or 13 years. In a whole lifetime that is a very short time. Yet it is extremely important.

Next year you will all face new challenges, some of them harder than you have met before. This is not a reason to be afraid but a cause for celebration. You are getting older and more knowledgeable. Your brain is developing and becoming better at learning. You know more and more and can do more and more with what you know. You are all ready for that next step whether here at Whenuapai School or further afield.

To excel at school takes determination, effort, and a positive attitude. To those receiving awards today congratulations. To all our students the greatest prize of all is when you can look in the mirror and say "I have tried my absolute best and know I have done the best I can."

You have all had a phenomenally successful year. Your student achievement data depicts a wonderful story of learning and progress. You have thrived in an environment where there is a deliberate focus on personal responsibility, leadership, academic and sporting success, learning that goes beyond the school gate as well as opportunities to pursue your passions.

Your teachers have taught you to love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes enjoy effort and keep on learning. They have shown you that being stuck is a great place to be.

On behalf of the school community I thank you for the positive legacy you leave for those who will follow. I thank the many staff who have taught, supported and cared for you over the years.

To all our families thank you for giving us wonderful young people to educate. Thank you also to all those parents who not only take time to celebrate with us but also those who take time to provide us with feedback.

One of the most important gifts we can offer our young people is a positive view of themselves. Without this gift they will flounder throughout life and be constantly seeking re-assurance from others, as they cannot see it from within. The world around our children is changing more rapidly than it ever has before.

Students I ask that over the break you take some time for reflection:

Spend some time thinking about what you were like this time last year

How much have you changed

Think about the good things that have happened

Think about your hopes for this summer, for next year

Promise yourself that you will say 'yes' to all that will be in the year ahead.

The best way to determine your future nowadays is to invent it.

The one thing all famous authors, world class athletes, actors, singers and celebrated achievers in any field have in common is that they began their journeys when they were none of these things. Yet still they began their journeys.

It is now time for you to begin yours.

Finally some wisdom from Winnie the Pooh.

Be bold enough to use your voice, brave enough to listen to your heart and strong enough to live the life you have always imagined.



# What's on....

**TENNIS MONSTERS**

Greenhithe January Holidays Tennis Programme  
 January 2018 - Week 1 - Thursday through to Saturday 11th - 13th  
 Week 2 - Thursday through to Saturday 18th - 20th  
 Week 3 - Thursday through to Saturday 25th - 27th  
 9:00am to 12:00pm  
 10-24 Roland Road, Greenhithe

\$95 for 3 Days  
 \$60 for 2 Days  
 \$43 per day  
 Travel extra

www.kidsinnorsports.com  
 Email: Dean dean@kinnorsports.co.uk  
 or 021 165 6771  
 All Levels Welcome



**SKYCITY NORTHERN MYSTICS ANZ PREMIERSHIP**

**OPEN DAY! FREE EVENT**

Do you want to meet the 2018 SKYCITY Mystics? Come along and join the fun at our Open Day

- Take part in skills & drills with your favourite players
- Our sponsors and partners will be on site with lots of fun activities, product samples and giveaways
- This is a FREE event to bring your friends and family - see you there!

DATE: Saturday 10th February 2018  
 TIME: 11am - 1pm  
 WHERE: The Trusts Arena, 65 - 67 Central Park Drive, Henderson

Brought to you by The Trusts giving back

BE THE CROWD #MYSTICSNATION

www.northernmystics.co.nz

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BE THE CROWD #MYSTICSNATION

**Marrzipan** AUCKLAND HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS!!

The Marrzipan Holiday Workshop runs from 10am-4pm 16th - 18th Jan (Birkdale Int, Taupaki) and 23rd - 25th Jan (Birkdale Int, Churchill Park). Students will devise their own play from scratch, create characters, direct each other, design the set, bring in costumes and get to perform to family and friends at the end of the final day!

Past workshops have been a great hit! As well as having fun, the children develop confidence and public speaking ability, in a fun, relaxed environment.

For more information check out our website! Spaces are limited to 16 per group so get in quick! W: [marrzipandrama.co.nz](http://marrzipandrama.co.nz) E: [workshops@marrzipandrama.co.nz](mailto:workshops@marrzipandrama.co.nz) T: 027 217 0693

Do you want to help your kids learn Spanish these holidays in a fun easy way? **Come and enjoy us!!**

Join us to sing, dance, cook, paint, and play games in "español"!  
 \*for children ages 5 - 10 years.

WHEN: once a week for 2 hours starting 17/12/2018 until 24/1/2018  
 (10am-12pm on Thursdays)

WHERE: Salvation Army 130 Glenfield Rd, Glenfield

For more information you can visit our website [www.kidsclub.co.nz](http://www.kidsclub.co.nz) or send me an email [nor@kidsclub.co.nz](mailto:nor@kidsclub.co.nz)

Cost: \$100 weekly  
 \*A minimum of 6 children is required in order for the course to take place

**skids Holiday Programme**  
 JUNIOR PROGRAMME 15 to 22 Dec 2007  
 (8 to 12 years old)

14th Dec: All Day Teddy Bear Sports Bring your teddy bear for a race in the park.	15th Dec: All Day Waka Bring your waka for a race in the park.	16th Dec: All Day Procession and Play Bring your costumes and play in the park.	17th Dec: All Day TROP DAY Bring your tropes and play in the park.	18th Dec: All Day Christmas Celebration Prepare for Christmas with cards, crafts and more!
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For more information, Mobile 021 04 8473 Email [whenuapai@skids.co.nz](mailto:whenuapai@skids.co.nz)  
 Register now at [WWW.SKIDS.CO.NZ](http://WWW.SKIDS.CO.NZ) click on Parent Login

**skids Holiday Programme**  
 SENIOR PROGRAMME 15 to 22 Dec 2007  
 (13 to 18 years old)

14th Dec: All Day TROP DAY Bring your tropes and play in the park.	15th Dec: All Day Burial Plot Bring your friends and play in the park.	16th Dec: All Day Foodstorm Learn to cook in a variety of healthy ways.	17th Dec: All Day Christmas Celebration Prepare for Christmas with cards, crafts and more!
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**Heroes & heroines children's activities and picnic festival**  
 Dec 16 - 17, 10am - 4pm

Processes, puppets, games & more to meet  
 Face painted  
 Picnic in costume parade  
 Easterbunnies  
 Santa

Plus much more!  
 Money castle  
 Treasure hunt  
 Create paper snowflakes and paint...

Children \$ 15 \$12  
 Adults \$15  
 Family (4 persons) \$ 49

For more details and to book tickets, go to [www.papatoetoe.com](http://www.papatoetoe.com), [HeroesAndHeroines.com](http://HeroesAndHeroines.com)  
 Facebook: @HeroesAndHeroines  
 Auckland: 021 04 8473  
 Christchurch: 021 04 8473  
 Email: [events@papatoetoe.com](mailto:events@papatoetoe.com)

**skids Holiday Programme**  
 JUNIOR PROGRAMME 8 Jan to 2 Feb 2008  
 (8 to 12 years old)

8th Jan: All Day Rainforest Bring your rainforest and play in the park.	9th Jan: All Day TROP DAY Bring your tropes and play in the park.	10th Jan: All Day Waka Bring your waka and play in the park.	11th Jan: All Day Procession and Play Bring your costumes and play in the park.	12th Jan: All Day TROP DAY Bring your tropes and play in the park.	13th Jan: All Day Christmas Celebration Prepare for Christmas with cards, crafts and more!
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**WATER CARNIVAL**  
 WEDNESDAY 17th JANUARY 2008

Book now for the skids Whenuapai Holiday Programme so you can join us for an amazing WATER carnival, filled with fun and exciting water games and a big WATERSLIDE

Waterslide, Food, Inflatables, hug-a-war and special performances to create a fun-filled day for all to enjoy.

Don't miss out, spaces are limited!  
 Only costing a normal trip day price of \$70.

For more information, call 021 04 8473 or email [whenuapai@skids.co.nz](mailto:whenuapai@skids.co.nz)

Register now at [WWW.SKIDS.CO.NZ](http://WWW.SKIDS.CO.NZ) and click on Parent Login

# PRINCIPALS' DIGESTS

30 Palliser Drive • Hamilton • NZ 3210 • Tel 07 855 7101

digests@xtra.co.nz • www.principalsdigests.co.nz

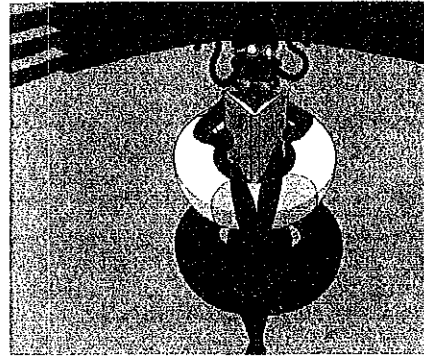
Digests may be copied and distributed in the school community of the subscriber.

Newsletter

Volume 23 Number 54

## SUMMER MATHS LOSS

**It's tough to imagine filling a lazy beach day with fractions, or stretching out in the back seat on a road trip and practising long division. For many of us, summer and mathematics just don't seem to mix. But students arrive back at school much worse off in mathematics than they finished up. On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of learning in maths over the summer — and teachers have to make up for that loss.**



### WHY MATHS LOSS?

**The research is clear: summer learning loss is a significant problem, playing a surprisingly large role in creating the achievement gap. It's easier for children from all backgrounds to forget what they learned in maths over the summer than it is for them to lose reading skills.**

The reason? Many parents and their children don't think about maths as existing outside of the classroom and may not use opportunities to do maths at home. It is easy to overlook the presence of maths in everyday activities, like measurement in cooking, calculation when dealing with money or distance while driving. As a result, when the school year ends, children may have very few opportunities to engage in any type of mathematical thinking. Getting students to remember maths isn't as easy as just assigning them summer maths homework because just assigning worksheets without mentoring or guidance probably won't correct summer maths loss.

### FOUR WAYS TO BEAT THE SUMMER MATHS SLUMP

**Highlight the maths in everyday activities.** When shopping, help children calculate change or discounts. When watching a sports game, talk about what players' statistics mean. When cooking, try halving or doubling a recipe, and assist children in figuring out the new proportions. **Read short maths stories together.** Reading maths-focused stories to children can help boost maths scores in school. **Play maths games.** Games like Yahtzee and Monopoly rely on skills necessary for maths, such as counting, categorising and building. Playing with blocks and assembling jigsaw puzzles can help children learn spatial skills and recognise patterns. **Find small ways to practise maths at home.** Small amounts of practice with basic formulas can help. Problem-of-the-day maths calendars are a great way to practise basic maths problems on a small scale.

Acknowledgement: Noah Heller, Harvard Teacher Fellows Program.